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CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
COLD SPRING HARBOR, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

November 22, 1946

Professor Tracy Sonneborn
Department of Zoology
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Sonneborn:

The main purpose of the Cold Spring Harbor Symposia is to bring people together for discussion of a specific research problem. It is supposed to act as a melting pot, where existing ideas are modified and new ideas are born. A symposium volume is the end product of a symposium. We cannot expect, nor should we expect, that every paper will be published in the form in which it is presented. In many cases the final version of the paper is influenced by formal discussions at the time of the meeting or by informal discussions conducted privately. Every year a few papers are rewritten after the Symposium. This year we had two such papers, one of them Lindegren's.

This is nothing unusual. Just today I received a set of directions for contributions to a symposium that will be held early next year, and I will quote one sentence from it: "Some of you may prefer to prepare a preliminary manuscript before the conference, to present the gist of it briefly and informally at the conference, and then to revise it and put it in final form for the symposium, taking advantage of the conference discussion to expand, correct, or clarify."

Apparently, either during the meeting or shortly afterwards, Lindegren modified his ideas, and the experiments he made after he got home confirmed the new conclusions. He called me up to let me know that he wished to withdraw his manuscript but was ready to send a revised version in case I wished to have it. I feel that he is entirely within his rights. No one can be forced to publish what he does not wish to. If a mistake is detected in a manuscript, it is good for all concerned that it be corrected before it gets into print. I know of an instance where a paper was withdrawn after it was already set in galley.

When Lindegren talked with me the first version of his manuscript had already been sent to the printer, and when the new version was received it was substituted for the old one. Since the material brought out in several discussions had been taken into account in the revised manuscript, these discussions became superfluous, and they were taken out. If left in, some of these statements would have been entirely out of place.

As the matter stands now, the manuscript is in press and I expect proofs shortly. The printer has reserved time for the work on the Symposium volume, and, considering the present situation in the printing business, it would be unwise for us to upset his schedule. At this late date it would not be feasible to have new discussions prepared. If you wish to make a comment, this could be

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inserted as an addendum in the galley proof. I heard from Spiegelman that he has arranged with Lindegren that he will send you a carbon copy of the revised manuscript.

I have just received page proof of your article for Advances in Genetics. You deserve congratulations on the fine work you did.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

M. Demerec

M. Demerec

MD:af

via air mail

cc to Dr. Spiegelman
Dr. Lindegren

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